

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 571

By Coley

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate the students, alumni, faculty, staff, and administration upon the 160th anniversary of St. Agnes Academy.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly are honored to recognize those educational institutions that are celebrating momentous occasions in their illustrious histories; and

WHEREAS, St. Agnes Academy, which is celebrating the 160th anniversary of its founding, is one such academic institution wholly deserving of the recognition of this Body; and

WHEREAS, one of the strongest sources of Catholicism in the region, St. Agnes Academy is the oldest, continuously operating school within the City of Memphis, Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, founded in 1851, this revered Catholic independent school began as a dream of the Dominican Sisters (now Sisters of Peace) of St. Catharine, Kentucky; and

WHEREAS, originally situated at Vance and Orleans, in what was considered at the time to be the suburbs of Memphis, St. Agnes Academy overcame many obstacles throughout the course of its early history, including two devastating fires in 1878 and 1900 as well as the loss of many Dominican Sisters who rendered compassionate care for the sick during the fall of 1867 and the fall of 1873 when a yellow fever epidemic enveloped Memphis; and

WHEREAS, with the powerful presence of Divine Providence mitigating its challenges, the school continued to grow and flourish in faith and grace, adding a Romanesque Chapel and auditorium in 1911 and establishing the Memphis Conservatory of Music in 1918; and

WHEREAS, after a century of thoroughly educating and preparing the young women of Memphis and Shelby County to succeed, St. Agnes Academy began a new phase in its illustrious existence when it re-located to its present site on Walnut Grove Road in 1951; and

WHEREAS, St. Agnes continued to flourish in its new home as citizens recognized and appreciated the quality of education provided by the school; and

WHEREAS, with the community growing in continued blessings, ground was broken for an elementary school for boys on the property of St. Agnes in 1956; and

WHEREAS, with fervent prayer, hard work, and determination, numerous improvements and expansions have been made to St. Agnes Academy over the course of many years, including the addition of Madonna Hall, Buckman Building, Early Childhood Center, Tot Lot, Siena Hall, Veritas Research Center, and Cybrary and Distance Learning Center, among others; and

WHEREAS, for the past 160 years, St. Agnes Academy has been producing high caliber leaders, enlightening their minds and inspiring their hearts with principle-based programs designed to prepare them for advanced formal and personal studies while deepening their faith and relationship with God; and

WHEREAS, woven into the fabric of daily life at St. Agnes Academy are the precepts of Catholic principles and Dominican spirituality and the faith-filled environment's commitment to academic excellence, spiritual and moral growth, social and ecological responsibility, leadership skills, multicultural awareness, emotional maturity, artistic expression, and physical fitness, which have made St. Agnes Academy the foremost beacon of education in Memphis and Shelby County; and

WHEREAS, as St. Agnes Academy moves forward into the twenty-first century, the faculty, staff, and administration, following the guidance of the Lord, are fully committed to continuing their rich tradition of excellence while providing the next generation with innovative, cutting-edge practices and state of the art technology, as evinced by its being named an "Apple Distinguished School" for the past four consecutive years; and

WHEREAS, St. Agnes Academy has served as one of the great academic institutions in our State and Nation, and the students, alumni, faculty, staff, and administration of this exceptional and historic academy should be appropriately honored for ensuring that Tennessee's students and future leaders are prepared to meet the many challenges of society with faith, hope, charity, and fortitude; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor and congratulate the students, alumni, faculty, staff, and administration of St. Agnes Academy upon the school's 160th anniversary, extending our gratitude for the significant impact St. Agnes Academy continues to have on the citizens of Tennessee and wishing the entire St. Agnes community every success in the future.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.